

REMARKS

Information Disclosure Statement

The Examiner's assertion that the Information Disclosure Statement received in the Office on December 1, 2003 fails to comply with 37 CFR 1.98(a)(2) is respectfully traversed. Copies of all 16 cited references have already been provided to the Office. Notwithstanding, Applicants resubmit copies of these sixteen references (A1-A16) and respectfully request the Examiner's consideration and entry thereof into the record of this application.

For the record, Applicants note that the enclosed 16 references were already provided on November 26, 2003 at the time the Information Disclosure Statement was deposited as first class mail with the United States Postal Service. As evidence thereof, Applicants attach a copy of the date-stamped postcard receipt returned by the Office, which acknowledges receipt by the Office on December 1, 2003 of "16 Cited References".

In accordance with MPEP § 503, which states that "[a] postcard receipt which itemizes and properly identifies the items which are being filed serves as *prima facie* evidence of receipt in the USPTO of all the items listed thereon on the date stamped thereon by the USPTO," Applicant respectfully submit that the 16 references resubmitted herewith were already received at the Office on December 1, 2003.

For the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner's consideration of these references and entry thereof into the record of this application.

Claim Objections

The objection to claim 6 has been obviated by clarifying amendment. Accordingly, withdrawal of this ground of objection is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103

The rejection of claims 1-15 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Kondo* (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0192462 A1) in view of *Shikinami et al.* (U.S.

Patent No. 4,855,077) is respectfully traversed. At a minimum, *Kondo* and *Shikinami et al.*, individually or in combination, fail to teach or suggest at least one element recited in each of independent claims 1-3—namely, “a releasing agent layer mainly formed of polyolefin resin” (emphasis added).

Kondo describes an application sheet used for a pressure-adhesive sheet for painting. Contrary to the Examiner’s characterization of this reference, *Kondo* neither teaches nor suggests a releasing agent layer mainly formed of polyolefin resin. On the contrary, the releasing agents applied to the release liner 4 described in paragraph 47 of *Kondo* are limited to “silicone, wax, fluororesin or the like.” There is no teaching or suggestion in the entirety of *Kondo* that the releasing agent layer be mainly formed of polyolefin resin, as required by each of independent claims 1, 2, and 3.

Shikinami et al. describes a sticking agent of ionic-conductive polymer and fails to remedy the deficiencies of *Kondo*. *Shikinami et al.* contains no teaching or suggestion whatsoever of a releasing agent layer mainly formed of polyolefin resin, as required by each of independent claims 1, 2, and 3.

Inasmuch as *Kondo* and *Shikinami et al.* fail to teach or suggest “a releasing agent layer mainly formed of polyolefin resin,” as required by each of independent claims 1-3, Applicants respectfully submit that the claimed invention is neither anticipated by nor would have been obvious in view of these references, individually or in combination. Accordingly, withdrawal of this ground of rejection is respectfully requested.

New Claims

New independent claim 16 recites that “the release agent layer of the release sheet comprises mainly a polyolefin resin” (emphasis added), and is patentable over *Kondo* and *Shikinami et al.*, individually or in combination, for at least the reasons set forth above.


Moreover, new dependent claims 17-22, which depend directly or indirectly from new independent claim 16, are patentable over *Kondo* and *Shikinami et al.*, individually or in combination, for at least these same reasons.

Conclusion

In view of the Remarks set forth above, Applicants respectfully submit that the claimed invention is in condition for allowance. Early notification to such effect is earnestly solicited.

If for any reason the Examiner feels that the above Remarks do not put the claims in condition to be allowed, and that a discussion would be helpful, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact the undersigned agent directly at (312)-321-4257.

Respectfully submitted,


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